

56. (New) The system for communicating status over a network of claim 52, the system further comprising:

a voice mail converter connected to receive an alpha numeric message via the network and convert the alpha numeric message into a voice mail message;

the converter further connected so as to allow a called party to access the voice mail message; and whereby the inquiring computer can create an alphanumeric message to be sent to the voice mail converter over the network for subsequent conversion into voice mail by the voice mail converter.

57. (New) The system for providing telephone status of claim 56, wherein system further comprises:

a called party processor connected to the network, wherein the voice mail converter is connected to receive the alpha numeric message from the network via the called party processor.

58. (New) A process for a calling party to determine telephone status of a called party telephone over a network, the process comprising:

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inputting a telephone number corresponding to the called party's plain old telephone system (POTS) telephone to a telephone status monitor over the network via a calling party processor; and

accessing a called party telephone status file over the network, wherein status of the called party's POTS telephone is made available via the called party telephone status file by the telephone status monitor.

59. (New) The process for a calling party to determine telephone status of claim 58, the process further comprising:

the calling party processor dialing the telephone number of the called party's POTS telephone when an on-hook status is detected; and

establishing a telephone call between the calling party and the called party via a telephone connected to the calling party processor.

60. (New) The process for a calling party to determine telephone status of claim 58, the process further comprising:

creating an alpha numeric message; and